

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY

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THOMAS JAMES CLAUSO,

1:18-cv-12217 (NLH) (LHG)

Plaintiff,

**MEMORANDUM OPINION  
& ORDER**

v.

WARDEN WILLIE BONDS, et al.,

Defendants.

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**APPEARANCES:**

Gurbir S. Grewal, Attorney General of New Jersey  
Niccole L. Sandora, Deputy Attorney General  
Office of the New Jersey Attorney General  
R.J. Hughes Justice Complex  
PO Box 116  
Trenton, NJ 08625

*Counsel for Defendants Willie Bonds, Guard Martinelli, and  
Guard Hansen*

Thomas James Clauso  
59252  
South Woods State Prison  
215 South Burlington Road  
Bridgeton, NJ 08302

*Plaintiff pro se*

**HILLMAN, District Judge**

WHEREAS, the Court appointed Ballard Spahr to assist  
Plaintiff Thomas Clauso in prosecuting his complaint under 42  
U.S.C. § 1983, see ECF No. 73; and

WHEREAS, attorneys Roberto A. Rivera-Soto and William

Patrick Reiley entered appearances on Plaintiff's behalf, ECF Nos. 71 & 72; and

WHEREAS, on November 12, 2021, the Court received a letter from Plaintiff purporting to "fire" counsel, ECF No. 85; and

WHEREAS, there is no right to counsel in a civil case, see Tabron v. Grace, 6 F.3d 147, 153-54 (3d Cir. 1993); Parham v. Johnson, 126 F.3d 454, 456-57 (3d Cir. 1997); and

WHEREAS, the Court will excuse Mr. Rivera-Soto and Mr. Reiley as Plaintiff's counsel with the Court's appreciation for accepting the assignment; and

WHEREAS, Plaintiff shall proceed pro se in this matter from now on,

THEREFORE, IT IS on this 3rd day of December, 2021

ORDERED that Roberto A. Rivera-Soto and William Patrick Reiley shall be, and hereby are, terminated as Plaintiff's counsel. Plaintiff shall proceed pro se in this matter; and it is finally

ORDERED that the Clerk shall send a copy of this Order to Plaintiff by regular mail.

At Camden, New Jersey

s/ Noel L. Hillman  
NOEL L. HILLMAN, U.S.D.J.